

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-21 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claim 22 is added herein.

Therefore, claims 1-22 are now pending and under consideration.

Claim 21 is rejected.

Claim 21 is amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, at pages 2, claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being vague and indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that a packet that self describes destinations is a packet that contains its own information about its destinations, as recited in amended claim 21. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 21 AND 22

Although not rejected for lack of novelty or obviousness, claims 21 and 22 are discussed below. During telephone discussions with Applicant's representative, the Examiner indicated that the bitmap feature of claim 1, for example, was not found in the prior art. Where claim 1 recites a bit map that indicates which destinations the packet has been distributed to, claim 22 recites a packet header including a destination list that indicates a plurality of the multicast destinations and a distribution map comprising a plurality of flags each corresponding to a respective destination in the list to which the packet is to be transferred and indicating whether or not the packet has already been distributed to its respective destination in a unicast route". Claim 21 recites a similar idea in that the multicast packet contains information identifying the multicast destinations, and as the packet is unicast routed it is modified with respect to the destinations

therein to prevent the packet from being routed more than once to any of the destinations.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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